

25 July 2003

Re: Reassignment to Regis
Community

Rev. James E. Poole, S.J.
Bellarmine Jesuit Community
2300 S. Washington Street
Tacoma, WA 98405-1399

Dear Jim, Peace of Christ!

Following our conversation of the other day, I am writing to you today to notify you formally that an allegation has been made against you of sexual misconduct with a minor while you were assigned to Alaska. Given the seriousness of this allegation, and your admission that at least some inappropriate (although, according to your report, non-sexual) contact did occur, and in line with Province policy (*Policy Manual*, pp 31-33), I have requested the Archbishop to formally withdraw your priestly faculties and I renew my verbal direction to you to engage in no public ministry. I have also spoken to Bishop Thomas and informed him of both the allegation and my decision.

It is a great sorrow for me, Jim, that I must take this action. Although I was aware that you had had difficulties previously in maintaining your commitment to chastity, I believe that we had dealt with that problem; and that in your current ministry, with its limits and restrictions, you have managed to live well the life to which you have been called — serving the people of God as priest. However, with this newly received allegation and the possible involvement of a minor — even many years ago — the well-being of the Society and the Church and our constant care for the ~~People of God~~ require even greater vigilance.

I am, therefore, missioning you to Regis Community, where you will be assigned to pray for the Society and the Church. At Regis, you are not to have any unsupervised contact with any minors nor are you to meet alone with any women. In accord with Canon Law, I will inform Bishop Skylstad of your presence in the diocese, but you will not receive faculties for sacred ministry, nor should you preside at any type of liturgy except with Jesuits alone.

Jim, in the *Spiritual Exercises*, we are invited to stand with Christ beneath the banner of the cross; standing with him now, may you feel his presence, and may he give you the courage and fortitude you need. I know that this will be a difficult time, yet I pray that as you take up your new ministry you will know the power of prayer, which heals and sustains the Society and each one of us. Know, as well, that you are in my prayers.

Yours in the Lord,

John D. Whitney, S.J.
Provincial

cc. Rev. Michael Tyrrell, S.J.; Rev. Robert Lyons, S.J.